

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 229

WHEREAS, Every 45 seconds, on average, someone in the United States suffers from a stroke; in fact, each year about 700,000 Americans suffer a new or recurrent stroke; and

WHEREAS, These figures are especially alarming considering that stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States, ranking behind only diseases of the heart and cancer; in 2003, stroke accounted for one of every 15 deaths in the United States, and in 2002, Texas ranked 13th among the states with the highest age-adjusted stroke death rates, with a rate of approximately 62.5 deaths per 100,000 in population; and

WHEREAS, Even for those who survive an initial stroke, the aftermath poses serious risk of recurrence, and recovery is difficult; 22 percent of men and 25 percent of women who have an initial stroke die within a year, and stroke is the leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Regrettably, certain ethnic groups are more likely to suffer from stroke than others; African Americans generally have almost twice the risk of first-ever stroke compared with white Americans, and African Americans between the ages of 35 and 54 have four times the relative risk for stroke; and

WHEREAS, Despite the prevalence and serious consequences of stroke, the majority of Americans are not aware of their risk factors for a stroke, nor are they aware of the signs and symptoms of an impending stroke, such as sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg; sudden trouble speaking or seeing in one or both eyes; sudden dizziness or loss of balance and coordination; and sudden severe headache; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to address these issues, in November 2005, the American Stroke Association launched its "Power to End Stroke" campaign aimed at educating the African American community on how to reduce the chances of having a stroke, recognizing the symptoms of stroke, and responding to the warning signs that a person is suffering or has suffered from a stroke; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, express its support for the American Stroke Association's "Power to End Stroke" campaign.

Ellis

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 12, 2006.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate